

(FFELP) and replace it with the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan Program. FFELP has been around for 40 years and served our constituents in allowing them access to higher education. To replace it in its entirety with the direct Loan program would be fiscal malfeasance. The U.S. Department of Education does not have the funds to give loans to students who are eligible for college loans and, in fact, has lost money in this program. From 1995 to 2003 the Direct Loan program borrowed \$137 billion to float this program and has posted a loss in the amount repaid and the amount borrowed.

I am also troubled by particular attention in this bill in Title III directed at giving grants to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for losses suffered during their Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, but no similar funding will be given to Texas for the losses they suffered during Hurricane Ike. Texas students deserve as much sound infrastructure as a result of hurricane destruction as Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Furthermore, we should not have to use an education bill to address the voter fraud and tax evasion activity by the organization known as ACORN. I voted yes on the Motion to Re-commit this bill to address the ACORN issues, but considering ACORN could have access to \$1 billion—as compared to the \$50 billion the American taxpayer could lose as a result of H.R. 3221—I will continue to vote no on H.R. 3221.

This bill is just another example of the federal government getting rid of choice and mandating only a public option. Just as I have fought the battle with regards to our healthcare, I am equally concerned that our education program remains vibrant and competitive.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DEAN HARMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Dean Harms of Ames, Iowa as the Ames Tribune's 2009 Unsung Hero.

The Unsung Hero award honors people who quietly but generously give their time and talents to help others. In 2003, as president of the Rotary Club in Ames, Dr. Harms began searching for ways to serve people. During his search he found that his friend, Doug Perry, who served with him in the U.S. Air Force, had started a mission in El Porvenir, Honduras. Doug welcomed Dr. Harms aboard and he has since been volunteering his time off and on in Honduras for six years. Dr. Harms mostly conducts eye surgeries but does other procedures as well.

When Doug passed away, Dr. Harms took it upon himself to continue the mission along with his friends Chuck and Carolyn Jons, who nominated him for this award. With the help of his friends and the community, Dr. Harms also successfully spearheaded the construction of a high school library in El Porvenir and established reading and literacy programs for local citizens.

Dr. Harms' eagerness to utilize his talents to improve the lives of others serves as a won-

derful example of human compassion. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Dean Harms in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Harms on his well-deserved award. I wish him all the best in his continued voluntary service and future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILLIPS LYTLE, LLP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillips Lytle LLP, a legal institution steeped in history which was founded in 1834 by Orsamus H. Marshall in Buffalo, New York.

While the firm name has evolved through time, its mission and philosophy have remained constant. Phillips Lytle is a full service law firm possessing extraordinary capabilities to service client needs.

Originally Marshall & Harvey, then Harvey & Bass, next Bass and Bissell; in 1874 future President of the United States, Grover Cleveland, joined the practice which then became Bass, Cleveland & Bissell LLP.

While a partner with Bass, Cleveland & Bissell, Grover Cleveland was elected mayor of the City of Buffalo in 1881. In 1883 Cleveland left the firm to become Governor of New York State and in 1885 Cleveland was elected as the 22nd President of the United States.

In 1906, Former State Supreme Court Justice, Daniel J. Kenefick joined the firm and in 1911, former Deputy Attorney General of New York State, Edward H. Letchworth signed on to practice law with Kenefick, Cooke, Mitchell & Bass.

The law practice grew significantly in the early 1930's as new partners emerged. In 1946, William E. Lytle joined and in 1960, additional partners were added including former Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, Walter J. Mahoney, who was later elected State Supreme Court Justice in 1965.

In 1970, under the name Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, the firm was positioned for significant growth. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, the Buffalo-based firm expanded across the State of New York partnering with a firms in Jamestown, Rochester, Fredonia and in 1982, an office was officially opened in New York City.

Several prominent Buffalo attorney's joined the firm in 2000 and in 2003, Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber was shortened to Phillips Lytle, LLP. The firm's unique approach has stood the test of time as they built practice groups around clients' needs in the areas of Commercial, Corporate, Family Wealth Planning, Labor & Employment and Trial law.

Today, Phillips Lytle has the largest geographic scope of any law firm in New York State, occupying seven (7) offices with over one hundred and seventy (170) attorneys representing some of the best companies in the United States. In total, there are over 450 individuals committed to the long standing tradition of providing exceptional legal services.

Steeped in history and experience, Phillips Lytle, LLP has remained a pillar firm in West-

ern New York. It is my distinct honor, to recognize David McNamara, Firm Managing Partner, along with each and every talented Partner, Associate, and Staff Member of Phillips Lytle, LLP for their outstanding professional and civic contributions to Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Phillips Lytle, LLP a firm with a long tradition of commitment to defending the law, upon this, their 175th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUREL GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Laurel Grove Baptist Church and to celebrate the triumph of human spirit that this church symbolizes.

Before the Civil War, Mrs. Jane Carroll, who was a slave of Dennis Johnston, received 10 acres of land from the estate of her owner. From these humble beginnings, a small but vibrant African American community developed.

In the mid 1800's, George Carroll, one of Jane Carroll's children, along with Thornton Gray and William Jasper, settled in what is now known as Franconia. These three men had been enslaved or were the direct descendants of those who had been enslaved in the Franconia area since the 1700's. The community that they founded became known as Carrolltown.

Carrolltown grew. Freed slaves settled there, bringing the talents and skills that form a community. A general store sprung up. A school was founded, the Laurel Grove Colored School, on land donated by William and Georgeanna Jasper. But there was no house of worship in the town. The people of Carrolltown had to worship in their homes or walk 13 miles to the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria City.

In 1884, a group of freed slaves and neighbors named George Carroll, Middleton Braxton, Thornton Gray, Laurenda Hunter, Elizabeth Lomax and William and Georgeanna Jasper, joined together in the quest to build a local place of worship. On May 10, 1884, William and Georgeanna Jasper donated a one-half acre parcel of land for the express purpose of building a house of worship adjacent to the Laurel Grove Colored School. This church became the Laurel Grove Baptist Church and has been known by many as "The Little Church by the Side of the Road".

Since that time, over the course of 125 years, the Laurel Grove Baptist Church has ministered to neighbors, friends and descendants of the original founders and the community as a whole. Laurel Grove Baptist Church has stood witness to the history of African Americans in the United States. From the bondage of slavery, to the struggle for equal rights to the election of the first African American President, the spirit and faith of the African American community has been represented by the existence of the Laurel Grove Baptist Church. The determination of the congregants, past and present, has been symbolic of the fight for freedom, equality, fairness and respect.